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Faculty Senate Minutes, January 11, 2021

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 11, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order - Timothy Taylor

[Approval of Minutes](#) – November 30, 2020

Motion to approve minutes made by Don Busenbark. Seconded by Joel Ellsworth. Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President | Frank Galey, Provost

Provost Galey wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped that faculty was able to get their batteries recharged during the holidays. Have been holding a series of faculty workshops with all eight academic colleges. Today's meeting was with the Caine College of the Arts and the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. There were good discussions and the time well spent with faculty. Talked about everything from COVID to vaccinations. Avoid using the description of faculty forums for these meetings so that there wouldn't be any confusion or connection with the Faculty Senate faculty forum. Let the faculty know that the Provost's Office appreciates the faculty for their thoughtful R401 submissions. A large number of the most current R401s were certificate programs that point towards employability. USU has received input from industry as well as faculty as these proposals were put together. Reminder that the calendar has been adjusted for the spring semester. School will begin on January 19 and in lieu of spring break there will be to extra days added. The two additional days are Friday March 12 as well as Friday, April 9. Friday classes on April 9 will be held on April 8. USU is not in charge of who gets the vaccines and currently doesn't have any vaccine to give. There will be a return to school testing program for students returning to campus after the holiday break. There is a committee that is put together as well as a plan that will be used once the institution receives the vaccine dosages. Some states have prioritized higher education personnel over the age of 50 as individuals who can receiving the vaccine. The State of Utah has not chosen or prioritized higher education in the vaccine rollout. President Cockett is aware of this and continues to advocate that higher ed should get some sort of priority for the rollout. Hoping to roll out vaccinations at all USU campuses, however, no one will be required to get the vaccine. The governor and USHE will discuss whether or not they will mandate student vaccinations. The wellness center and frontline workers on campus will receive the vaccinations first.

Confident that USU will continue to do great in all areas of research, teaching and outreach. Return to school testing will be initiated Tuesday at noon in the Eccles Conference Center. Testing is for all students and will take no more that five minutes to register, have samples taken and then be on their way and the results should be back the same day. A lot of conversation at the state level whether this testing would be mandatory. The governor has said that this is not mandatory but to reiterate to our students the importance of knowing, at the beginning of the semester, if they are infected. Today President Cockett challenged the other USHE institutions for the number of students who would obtain the back to school tests. Work with student government and student activity members to get the word out. East stadium testing is still available and interestingly the numbers are low, down around 150. At this point USU has not been included in the K through 12 vaccinations.

Information

[EPC Monthly Report](#) – December 3, 2020 - Paul Barr

General Education Committee approved one DHA designation. Discussed being able to receive designations for short-term study abroad courses. Communicative Intensive (CI) subgroup has been working on the main working components for CI and Communication Literacy (CL) designations. Working on updating and providing rubrics for the designations.

Academic Standards Subcommittee resolved to discontinue the GRE exam. It is felt that sometimes under represented groups suffer from this exam. Extend the leave of absence time limit for a leave of absence from one year to three years.

Curriculum Subcommittee approved 76 course requests. Two departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences will be breaking out into two new departments in that college. Added some Curriculum justification language and discussion on library resources.

HR 385 Code Change (redline-summary-final) - Doug Bullock/Mica McKinney/Allison Adams
Appointments of Opportunity policy updates have been approved through the executive committee. These updates clarify language and expectations as well as DCA priority and placement. Also deleted Affirmative Action Appointment Type. Should be making active efforts to hire diverse individuals, rather than hiring by protected classes. Deleted nonexempt limitation on temporary positions.

Reports

[Council on Teacher Education](#) Annual Report ([One-pager](#)) - Sylvia Read

The college continues to be fully accredited and they have submitted their annual report. The State of Utah Board of Education has decided that Praxis tests are no longer required. A majority of the report is based on the annual reports and includes the data from the annual report. All student teachers must take the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) starting Spring 2020 semester.

Motion to approve the Council on Teacher Education Annual Report made by Don Busenbark. Seconded by Scott Hunsaker. Report approved.

[Scholarship Advisory Board](#) Annual Report - Craig Whyte

The scholarship office has repurposed the report and it has vastly more information. Looking at the last five years. Awarded \$2,053,777.89 which is an increase in the institutional scholarships awarded. This report now shows a better representation of where we're at and where we're going as a university. USU is following what the future will be for standardized testing. Providing a comprehensive scholarship review. Approximately 1600 student have applied for scholarships this semester.

Motion to approve the Scholarship Advisory Board Annual Report made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Vicki Allen. Report approved.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Ombudsperson Report - Boyd Edwards

There have been several discussions as to why we have Ombudspersons when it is so difficult to get faculty to serve. The Ombudsperson was set up and initiated in 2005. The committee has been meeting and talking about changes to the policy. No one disputes the fact the Ombudsperson has been helpful. See the report for the further recommendations of the committee.

USU Promotion and Tenure Process Survey - Boyd Edwards

(https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3qulyYYopWvNg9v)

The survey will go out to all faculty. Faculty Senators will help get this survey out in their respective colleges. Omit D7 and D4 questions on the survey. Make sure that the survey is anonymous.

Once those changes are made the Faculty Senate could look at it again.

Motion to move ahead made by Ralph Meyer. Seconded by Patrick Belmont. Move forward with survey and distribution.

[USU Response](#) to Dixie State University (DSU) Resolution - Timothy Taylor

Proposed resolution for USU to support DSU's name change. The DSU Board of Trustees has approved as well as the Utah Board of Education. It is now at the state legislature.

Motion to accept resolution made by Patrick Belmont. Seconded by Doug Ramsey. Motion approved.

Adjourn: 4:30 pm